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What is the goal of the AMBER Alert system?

 To safely recover missing, endangered and/or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, media, transportation and other partners. This is accomplished by using training and technology to enhance response capacities and capabilities and increase public participation.

AMBER ALERT What does it mean?

AMERICA'S

MISSING:

BROADCAST

EMERGENCY

RESPONSE

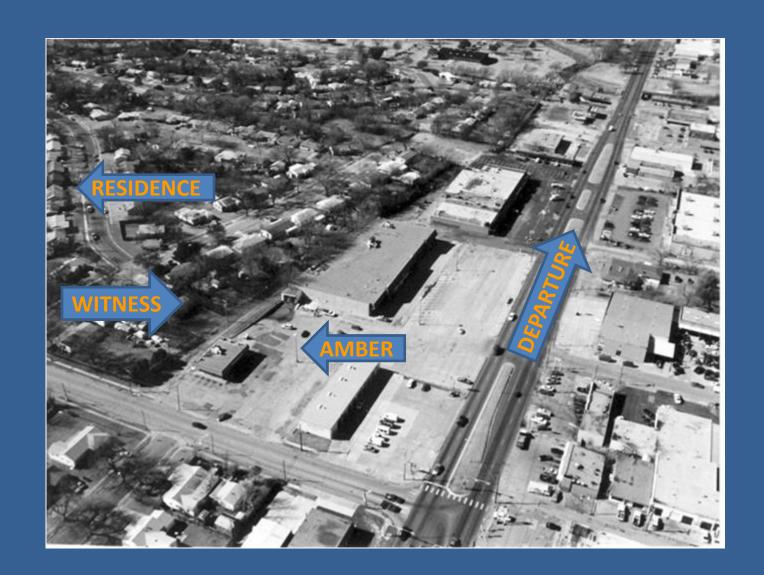
Amber Hagerman



Why was the AMBER Alert created? Amber Hagerman

- January 13, 1996 in Arlington Texas
- Amber and her five year old brother Ricky, were riding bikes at an abandoned Winn Dixie grocery store parking lot. An unknown male was watching from a pickup truck in the parking lot.
- Ricky returned home; they weren't supposed to be at the Winn Dixie. Ricky told their grandfather where they had been. Grandfather went to the Winn Dixie to get Amber.
- Witness saw the unknown male subject grab Amber from her bike and leave the area with her. The witness notified 911 and the first responding unit was on scene within a few minutes.**
- Remains were located in a drainage ditch on January 17th, 1996.

Amber Hagerman Abduction site



How does AMBER Alert work?

The U.S. Department of Justice recommends the following criteria for AMBER Alert programs nationwide:

- Law Enforcement officials must have reason to believe that an abduction of a child 17 or younger has occurred.**
- Law Enforcement officials must believe that the abducted child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- Enough descriptive information must exist about both the victim and the abductor for an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The child's name and other critical data, including the child abduction (CA) flag, must be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

Types of abductions

Nonfamily Abduction:

Defined as the unauthorized taking, retention, luring, confinement or concealment of a child younger than the age of 18 by someone other than a family member.

Types of Abduction

Family Abduction:

The taking, retention or concealment of a child, younger than 18 years of age, by a parent, other person with a family relationship to the child, or his or her agent, in violation of the custody rights, including visitation rights, of another parent or legal guardian.

Family Abductions

Statistics from 1999 (New stats coming soon from 2008)

- In 1999, 203,900 child abductions occurred by a family member.
 - -The whereabouts were unknown to the caretaker: 117,200 or 57%
 - -The whereabouts were known to the caretaker: 86,700 or 43%
 - -The abduction was reported to Authorities: 56,500 or 28%

Family Abductions

Statistics of the perpetrator's relationship to the child:

Father:	108,700	<u>53%</u>
Mother:	50,500	25 %
Grandfather:	13,700	7%
Grandmother:	13,400	7%
Uncle:	6,000	3%
Stepfather:	3,300	2%
Mother's boyfriend	3,200	2%
Sister:	1,900	1%
Aunt:	3,000	1%

Abduction Duration

Less than 1 hour	6,300	03%
1-6 hours	33,600	16%
7-24 hours	7,500	04%
1-7 days	46,600	23 %
1 week - 1 month	48,000	24%
1-6 months	29,700	<u> 15%</u>
More than 6 months	12,400	06%
Located but not returned	12,700	06%
No information	7,100	03%

Telecommunications Role

It all starts with a phone call:







When an abduction is being reported

- Verify the caller's address or location and their contact information
- Obtain the caller's relationship to the missing/abducted child
- Obtain the child's full descriptive information including but not limited: Child's name; sex; race; height; weight; hair color; eye color; complexion and clothing.
- Any other identifiers such as eye glasses or contact lenses, braces, piercings, scars, marks, tattoos; other unique physical attributes such as a limp; and any identifiable items in the child's possession such as a bicycle, skate-board, backpack, or toy.

When an abduction is being reported

- Verify when and where the child was last seen. <u>Determine</u>
 if this incident is in progress or has already occurred.
- Obtain a detailed description of the suspect/companion's vehicle including color, year, make, model and license plate.
- Obtain the suspect/companion's full descriptive information, if available, including but not limited to name; age; sex; race; height; weight; hair color; eye color; complexion and clothing.
- Any other identifiers such as eye glasses or contact lenses, piercings, scars, marks tattoos; and any other unique physical attributes such as a limp.

When an abduction is being reported

- Obtain information about the circumstances surrounding the disappearance such as; if the child was playing outside or taken from the home.
- Request the caller to have recent photographs available for law enforcement upon their arrival depicting how the child looks now. Digital/electronic images are the best but hard copy photographs may be scanned for use with NCIC record or missing child posters. School pictures will work but do not generally depict the day to day appearance of the child.

Telecommunications Role

- Initial call intake: Gather all information that is possible and available.
 - -Determine the location for the abduction and the location for the caller.
 - -Dispatch units to respond to the caller and the abduction location if they are different.
 - Notify both the Communications supervisor as well as the field supervisor for responding units.

Telecommunications Role

Notify KBI to begin the AMBER Alert process.

 If the abductor is known, begin the cell phone ping process.

 Keep everyone involved updated with the most current information. Keep in mind, this will change frequently in the beginning.

Can you answer the following questions?

- Is this believed to be a child abduction?
- Is the child 17 years of age of younger or an individual with a mental or physical disability?
- Is there reason to believe the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death?
- Is there information to disseminate to the general public which could assist in the safe recovery of the victim and or the apprehension of a suspect?
- Can you answer YES to the previous four questions? If so, begin the AMBER Alert process.

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Kansas AMBER Alert Activation

- Gather all information available
- Contact KBI to enter Amber Alert.
- Enter into NCIC as a missing person with Amber Alert marked on the NCIC entry.
- Broadcast statewide every 15 minutes for the first hour after the AMBER Alert is activated. Broadcast every half hour for the proceeding four hours or until a major news cast time period (1800 or 2200).

Amber Alert Case Studies

Jorelys Rivera



Jorelys Ivette Galarza Rivera

Age: 7

Height: 4'0"

Weight: 80 pounds

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Last seen wearing:

Pink T-Shirt

Blue jeans

Black "Children's Place" boots

Jorelys Rivera Family Dynamics

- Living at: 9102 River Ridge Drive, Apartment 9102, Canton Georgia
- Residents
- Mother: Joselinne Rivera-Ruiz Age 24
- Victim: Jorelys Rivera Age 7
- Sister: Yesianne Torres Age 4
- Sister: Alanis Torres-Rivera
 - Mother's girlfriend: Maria Americano
 - Daughter of Maria: Josephine Americano

Case Development

- December 2, 2011 Jorelys returns from school at approximately 1430 hrs.
 - Woke her mother to tell her she was home
- Went out to play with friends at the apartment complex playground area
- Being watched by Josephine Americano
- Jorelys comes to apartment for soft drinks at 1600 hrs and goes back outside
 - Americano went to sleep, woke up close to 1730
- Jorelys was missing from the play area
- Family begins searching for Jorelys
- Canton police contacted at 1930 hrs



Patrol's Initial Response

- Interview of mother and babysitter
- Searched apartment
- Confirmed custody status
- Obtained identifiers for friends of victim
- Obtained identifiers of relatives
- Updated other officers as new information became available

- Evaluated victim's room
- Expanded search to surrounding buildings and vehicles
- Checked surveillance cameras that may be in the area
- Requested assistance from Cherokee Sheriff's Department

Patrol's Initial Response

- Obtained photograph for flyers
- Established Command Post at apartment complex office at 2130 hrs
- Cherokee Search and Rescue personnel on scene at 2300 hrs
- Search efforts suspended for the night at 0200 hrs

Extended Investigative Efforts December 3, 2011

- Search efforts were suspended at 0200 December 3rd, 2011.
- Search efforts were reestablished at approximately 0530 hrs December 3rd, 2011.
- At 1500 hrs, Canton PD reclassified the incident from a missing child to an abduction.
- Seach efforts concluded at 1900 hrs on December 3rd, 2011.

Extended Investigative Efforts December 4, 2011

- Search efforts were reestablished in the A.M.
- At approximately 2100 hrs Canton officers again searched apartments that had previously been inspected, locating what was determined to be the crime scene in a vacant apartment.

Extended Investigative Efforts December 5, 2011

 The body of Jorelys Rivera was recovered in a trash compactor located on the River Ridge apartment complex property.

Ryan Brunn



Ryan McCabe Brunn

Age: 20

Date of Birth: 07/29/1991

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 165

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Developing Ryan Brunn

- Residence at 12309 River Ridge
- Maintenance man for the River Ridge Apartment Complex
- Had been living at the complex for 30 days
- Recently kicked out of an extended family members home due to sexual assault on a juvenile family member.
- Arrested on December 7th and charged with the murder of Jorelys Rivera.

Experiencing an active child abduction Family Abduction

Background information

 Toddler aged child was taken from a family members yard in front of the custodial parent during the late morning. Local law enforcement had contact with both the non custodial and custodial parents after the abduction. Custodial parent advised they had valid custody paperwork at home. The child was released to the non custodial parent due to the custodial parent not having custody papers physically with them.

Remember, every agency is different, how do you believe this above situation should have been handled?

- Custodial parent returned home (in a different town and county) and retrieved the appropriate paperwork.
- Custodial parent then began traveling in the direction they believed the non custodial parent was traveling. Custodial parent made contact with the local Sheriff's office who in turn notified KHP. All KHP units in the area began to respond.
- Initially information was that the custodial parent was following the non custodial parent. KHP determined the custodial parent was not physically following the non custodial parent. KHP instructed the custodial parent to stop and wait for LEO.
- The S.O. provided KHP with the name and phone number for the non custodial parent.

- KHP units and S.O. Deputy made physical contact with the custodial parent.
- Quickly determined the child was, in fact, with the non custodial parent and possibly in danger. (non custodial parent had drug and weapon history)
- S.O. provided a cell phone ping for the non custodial parent. GPS coordinates provided were inaccurate
- Dispatch and Trooper on scene both contacted KBI to begin the AMBER Alert process.
- KHP dispatch began the process to ping the phone ourselves using Kelsey's Law.

- KHP quickly determined an accurate cell phone ping for the non custodial parent.
- GPS coordinates were in the Wichita area and were moving South towards Oklahoma.
- KHP Dispatch notified both the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP).
- KHP dispatch continued to ping the phone frequently and updated the KTA and OHP with location updates.

 Non custodial parent and the child were located, unharmed, approximately five miles into Oklahoma by the OHP.

KTA Trooper was on scene with OHP moments later.

 Child was taken into protective custody and transported back to Kansas by KTA Trooper.

AMBER Alert/Child Abduction Recap

- AMBER Alert goal
- AMBER Alert beginning
- Amber Hagerman
- Types of abductions
- Family abductionStatistics
- Abduction duration statistics

- Telecommunications role in an abduction
- Kansas AMBER Alert Activation process
- Jorelys Rivera
- Active Child Abduction experience



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Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or if assistance is needed.

Certifications

Breanna Weeks has completed certified training through the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention; and the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program in the following courses:

Investigative Strategies in Child Abductions Cases

Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children (TELMAC)

TELMAC-Train the Trainer